



## For Immediate Release: Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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# Tampa Bay's biggest Hispanic Heritage month celebration took place on Sunday, Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in YBOR City @5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ford Taste of Latino Festival. #connectford

The event recognized and awarded the Top 25 Amigo & Latino Lideres in Tampa Bay and in Florida. Tampa, FL; Hispanic Heritage Celebration in Ybor City brought out thousands of people!

The 5<sup>th</sup> Ford Annual Taste of Latino Festival was held at Centennial Park in Historic Ybor City! The free family festival included 3 City Streets, as well as at Ybor's popular Centennial Park. The VIP area was held at the Ybor City Museum Gardens.



Guests enjoyed sampling the delicious entries from the Top Latino Food Chef award, which was presented by Zephyrhills Water! The Top Latino Food Chefs, competed in 3 categories with the TOP Chefs taking home the Grand prizes of \$1,000 for First (1<sup>st</sup>) Place, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and POPULAR Vote also receiving a CASH prize of \$500 each! As the Presenting Sponsor of the World Top Latino Food Chef contest, Zephyrhills Water is also donating \$1,000 to EACH WINNER for donate to their choice of Non-Profits.



Guests also enjoyed delicious Food, ART and LIVE Music and dance performances including Salsa Lessons, Zumba and MORE PLUS Vaya DJ, Johnnie Rivera and our emcee dance pro Chris Maloof. **Guests can also enjoy Free Salsa Dance Lessons! As part of the days festivities, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Domino Tournament was also held with 40 of the areas TOP Dominos players registering to win the Cash Grand Prize!**

The event also featured the Awards Ceremony with the 2023 TOP Latino Lideres (Latino Leaders) with Leaders coming from all over Tampa Bay and Florida to be recognized and receive the Latino Lideres Award and the Amigo "El Amigo" Award on Stage.

**Awardees Include:** Luis Capdevilla, Anthony & Allison Fonseca, Judge Miriam Valkenburg, Nancy Millán, Cristy Balderrama, Kyandra Valle, Fox New's Regina Gonzalez, Honorable Judge Miriam Valkenburg, Roberto Leon, Julia Palacios, Kandy Windom, Roberto Borrero, Maura Cruz-Lanz, Lisette Bonano, Edwin El Calvito Reyes, Rosario Torres, Lisa Pages, Cary Seaholm, Danielle Hernandez, Anthony Gonzalez, Joe Lopez from Naidi Flan, Nicole Quinones-Diaz, Vanessa Cahuas Jasmin Gracia, Jaime Yepes, plus Ann Marie Bizarretty Cash, our Amigo awards: Jennifer Mallan from Come Home with Jen and Chef Gaston Merideth.

**Top Latino Chef Contest, presented by Zephyrhills Water:** Latino Dish Contest Features Top Chef Latino Dish -Professional contest to see who makes the BEST Latino Dishes in Tampa Bay! **Contestants include: Empanadas, Paella and MORE!**



**Sponsors Recognized at the Event:** FORD Motor Company; HRFCC, VISIT TAMPA BAY, Zephyrhills Water, CENTRO TAMPA, Maxima 925FM, Florida Blue, VIZA Law, ESTRELLA TV, MORE TV, La Teresita Restaurant; Latin Times Magazine; Vaya DJ.

**Hashtags:** #ConnectFord #HispanicHeritageMonth #YborCity #TASTEOLATINO #Empanadas #CubanSandwich ##### More info at: [www.TasteOfLatino.com](http://www.TasteOfLatino.com)